

FACT SHEET

THE GA-U PILOT PROJECT IN KING & PIERCE COUNTIES



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

THE MANDATE: The current biennial budget says: “The department shall, within available resources, design and implement a medical care services managed care management pilot project for clients receiving general assistance benefits....The pilot project shall be designed to maximize care coordination, high-risk medical management, and chronic care management to achieve better health outcomes.....”

BACKGROUND: MAA currently is working with Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW) to iron out a contract to provide care systems through its network of clinics in the two-county pilot area of King and Pierce. The pilot is scheduled to begin in December 2004 and run for at least two years before evaluation to see whether it should be continued. The health plan will be responsible for the General Assistance – Unemployable (GA-U) clients’ primary care, prescription drug coverage, and coordinating all other care. But the primary benefit for clients will be the guaranteed access to a primary care provider in the health plan’s network.

PROJECT FACTS: The managed care scope of care will not change for eligible GA-U clients in King and Pierce counties. All GA-U will be enrolled in managed care except: a) GA-X, b) GA-U youth under age of 19 years of age, c) ADATSA, and d) most clients in nursing homes. Exemptions include 1) American Indian/Alaskan Native can voluntarily exempt out of managed care; 2) case-by-case consideration of medical condition where enrollment in managed care could cause an interruption of treatment that could jeopardize the client’s life or health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. Enrollment will be automatic to CHPW, normally in the month following the client becoming eligible for GA-U. If enrollment occurs late in the month, there may be a one-month delay before being enrolled. Washington Administrative Codes (WAC) for GAU (388-505-0110) and for Managed Care (388-538-063) are being amended to include mandatory enrollment for GAU clients in the designated counties.

CLIENT NOTICE: In November, existing clients will be mailed a packet and an insert with their Medical Assistance ID card called “Your Medical Is Changing.” New clients will be given a flyer with their award letter at eligibility and then will be mailed a packet. This will be the ongoing process.

PROVIDER NOTICE: MAA is holding meetings with stakeholders, providers and nursing homes to maintain communication with the community and providers. Providers also will receive numbered memos, letters and other outreach options, including Community Service Organizations (CSO) and Home & Community Services (HCS) trainings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Amandalei Bennett at bennea@dshs.wa.gov or call 360-725-1646 or write P. O. Box 45530, Olympia, WA 98504-5530 For more information about CHPW, go to chpw.org/en/aboutus.php